

A PREHISTORIC RACE.

Strange Discoveries Made by an Explorer on the Pacific Coast.

A strange and apparently important discovery of old graves, copper and stone weapons and implements, and monoliths, was lately made in Santa Maria and Culama valleys, in the Coast mountains. Thus far the discovery has attracted the keenest interest, though as yet it is known only locally.

The graves are in mounds which rise five or six feet above the surface of the ground, and the mounds themselves are often seventy-five or one hundred feet in length and of almost round or oblong shape. It is believed there are thirty or forty graves in each mound. A. D. Bowen, of the state senate, told the details as far as known.

The discovery was made by Juan Olivos, of Santa Maria, who dug into the mounds, which have been known to exist for a long time. At a depth of ten feet, when he dug into the grave, the first thing his pick struck was a polished slab of a slightly greater length than that of an ordinary coffin of an adult of the present age. Then he heaved underneath he looked into a long box of stone that had nothing in it but dust. The body had laid so long that even the bones had disappeared and there was nothing but ashes. The grave was older than any he had heard of on the Pacific coast. The slab was a peculiarly hard and polished stone, the like of which does not exist in the country. It was thin, however, having been worked down till it was not more than half an inch thick.

Olivos worked away and got out other stones. The top, bottom, sides and ends were all of the same curious hard and thin stone, and had been set in the earth and held by the soil with iron grooves or other things. Some of the grooves were found numerous battle-axes and other weapons of copper, and vessels peculiarly made and of stone. Curious copper disks resembling coins were also found. There were many in the grave, and the investigator pushed his way still farther into the mound. Then he found many other copper implements, some being axes and others rude knives, while some were quite long and looked as though they had been used as spears.

The mounds are scattered along for a couple of miles, and there are probably a hundred of them.

Knowing there were similar mounds in Culama valley, adjoining the first, he went to them, and digging in them, found a dead Indian blood. Now, the fact is that Mexico is not a Spanish, but an Indian nation. The pure blooded Indians constitute more than one-half the population of Mexico. The remainder are chiefly Indians with a dash of Spanish blood. There are very few pure blood Spaniards in Mexico, and these are hated with a hearty good will by the Indians and gringos, which appears to be Mexican for snobs. Contrary to popular opinion in this country, there is very little admixture with the negro race in Mexico. The Mexicans have no particular objection to intermarrying with the negroes, but there are very few of the latter in the country. At Vera Cruz and other coast towns there has been some admixture with the coolies, brought from the Manila islands. The lower Mexican states are almost exclusively Indian, and millions of them can not speak Spanish at all. Many of them are highly civilized and very wealthy. Politically it is a great advantage to be a pure-blooded Indian. Benito Juarez, at one time law partner of President Diaz, and regarded as the Washington of Mexico, was a full-blooded Oaxaca Indian. There are about six million Indians in Mexico still regarded as savages. They are not savages in the sense that the Sioux are, but they add nothing to the wealth of the country. It is the policy of the Diaz government, as outlined in the last annual report of M. Romero, minister de hacienda, to civilize these Indians and make of them valuable citizens, thereby more than doubling the wealth-producing force of the republic. Mexico is far behind the central and South American states. Agriculture, the arts and commerce, are carried on, for the most part, much as they were in Egypt five thousand years ago. It is not the country the Jews avoid. Those sharp traders stand no show in Mexico. However backward they may be in other respects, the Mexicans can beat even the Americans at their own game. The average Jew trader would starve to death in Mexico. The Americans are not only not wanted, but are thought of paying the price demanded for anything, and they are regarded as legitimate game and preyed upon unmercifully. The Mexican women, especially the pure-blood Indians, are usually chaste. They sometimes become mistresses, but prostitution, as practiced in other countries, is practically unknown among the Mexican Indians.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

MEXICAN BLOOD.

The Inhabitants of Our State Republic Descendants from Indians.

People of the United States have some very queer ideas of our sister republic of Mexico. They think of the Mexicans as Spaniards who have received a dash of Indian blood. Now, the fact is that Mexico is not a Spanish, but an Indian nation. The pure blooded Indians constitute more than one-half the population of Mexico. The remainder are chiefly Indians with a dash of Spanish blood. There are very few pure blood Spaniards in Mexico, and these are hated with a hearty good will by the Indians and gringos, which appears to be Mexican for snobs. Contrary to popular opinion in this country, there is very little admixture with the negro race in Mexico. The Mexicans have no particular objection to intermarrying with the negroes, but there are very few of the latter in the country. At Vera Cruz and other coast towns there has been some admixture with the coolies, brought from the Manila islands. The lower Mexican states are almost exclusively Indian, and millions of them can not speak Spanish at all. Many of them are highly civilized and very wealthy. Politically it is a great advantage to be a pure-blooded Indian. Benito Juarez, at one time law partner of President Diaz, and regarded as the Washington of Mexico, was a full-blooded Oaxaca Indian. There are about six million Indians in Mexico still regarded as savages. They are not savages in the sense that the Sioux are, but they add nothing to the wealth of the country. It is the policy of the Diaz government, as outlined in the last annual report of M. Romero, minister de hacienda, to civilize these Indians and make of them valuable citizens, thereby more than doubling the wealth-producing force of the republic. Mexico is far behind the central and South American states. Agriculture, the arts and commerce, are carried on, for the most part, much as they were in Egypt five thousand years ago. It is not the country the Jews avoid. Those sharp traders stand no show in Mexico. However backward they may be in other respects, the Mexicans can beat even the Americans at their own game. The average Jew trader would starve to death in Mexico. The Americans are not only not wanted, but are thought of paying the price demanded for anything, and they are regarded as legitimate game and preyed upon unmercifully. The Mexican women, especially the pure-blood Indians, are usually chaste. They sometimes become mistresses, but prostitution, as practiced in other countries, is practically unknown among the Mexican Indians.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.



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CHAPTER XIII.—Continued.

"I don't like to contradict the man who has just saved my life, but I should be sorry for you to cherish an illusion. We shall as certainly take Acre as we took El Arish, and Garza, and Jaffa. Bonaparte said so, and he has never yet failed in any enterprise to which he put his hand. He says that though he should be left with only four grenadiers and a corporal he will come in; and if he comes in you may be sure that he will stay."

"If he does! We shall see."

"And now—Ah, I thought so. I have something more to tell you. You were speaking just now of Mlle. Carmine. She is Carmine no longer."

"You don't mean—?"

"Your departure nearly broke her heart; so, to console herself, she married her sergeant—Victor, isn't his name? And he has since got his grade."

"Poor Julia! I am very glad."

"You don't look so."

"Looks are deceptive sometimes, M. le Chef de Bataillon. Yes, I am glad to think Julia is happily married. She is a dear, good girl."

"Ma foi, M. Roy, it seems to me that all women with whom you find favor are good."

"Naturally. Have you anything else to tell me?"

"Only that I advise you to give heed to my warning and get out of Acre before Bonaparte gets in."

"Of course I shall—unless I remain here all my life—for he never will get in, except as a prisoner."

"I look Lacluse to my quarters, and a few days later got him exchanged for an English major of marines who was of much more use to us than a French chef de bataillon. I did not concern myself much about Bonaparte's jealousy. It was incredible. As Lacluse was no longer about the general's person, he must have heard the story at second hand, and second-hand stories are generally first-class lies."

I thought a good deal more about Julia Carmine. I was of course, delighted to know that she was married—as I hoped happily—but I should have been a little better pleased if she had not forgotten me quite so soon.

CHAPTER XIII.

As the siege went on it took more and more the character of a fight for the town, a duel between Bonaparte and Philippeaux; and, the two men being brilliant soldiers, personal enemies, and the representatives of opposing principles, it was an exciting contest. Bonaparte was energy incarnate. The thought that a tumble-down Syrian town and a medieval tower were keeping him and his army at bay, and might thwart the most daring and romantic scheme of conquest which he had ever conceived, made him wild with rage. He would take Acre; he stormed and he stormed again. One assault was no sooner repulsed than he ordered another. If he had been able to create a bottleneck with a banding of his foot, he could not have sacrificed his soldiers more lavishly. Kleber called him a "general of ten thousand men a week."

But the foe, invulnerable still, foiled his wild rage by steady skill.

Philippeaux, cool, cautious, vigilant and intrepid, and loyally supported by the commodore and the pasha, never allowed himself to be taken at advantage, and met every one of his adversary's moves by some fresh expedient. At first with a banding of his widened he had the rent built up with sand-bags and bales of timber, in such fashion as to render the wall stronger than before; and time after time storming parties descended into the ditch only to be driven back with heavy loss.

When our spies reported that the French engineers were making a mine with which they hoped to blow up both tower and ditch, Philippeaux began to countermine; but, as the enemy had the start of him by several days, it was



HE RECOGNIZED ME AT ONCE.

resolved to make a sortie in force, as well to retard the operation by withdrawing the props as to verify the direction of the mine.

The sortie was made in three columns, one composed almost exclusively of English seamen and marines, among whom were as many of my own fellows as could be spared from the duties of the ship.

We sallied forth shortly before dawn. The enemy, though not altogether unprepared, did not expect to be assailed by so large a force, and at the first onset we carried all before us, captured two guns and two ammunition wagons, and drove the French from their first parallel. Then they rallied, and returned to the charge, and the gunners retaken and again taken several times.

The hottest fighting took place round the mouth of the mine, of which, after a desperate struggle, we obtained temporary possession. Several of us, led by Maj. Oldfield, a brave officer of marines, forced our way into the gallery. Oldfield was shot dead by a mine, whom I cut down the next moment with my sword.

After unshipping as many props as

we could, we hurried back to the entrance.

Meanwhile, the French, heavily reinforced, had resumed the offensive and forced our fellows back, and as we emerged from the mine we were all taken prisoners.

The main body, now hopelessly outnumbered, gave up the contest and re-entered the town.

The slaughter had been frightful; the parallels and ditches were filled with the dead.

When all was over the prisoners were paraded before Gen. Bonaparte's tent. He recognized me at once.

"So we have you again, M. Roy?" he said, mockingly. "We have you again, and there are no foolish women to help you to escape. You both deceived and insulted me, M. Roy, and what is worse, you did not act like a man of honor. You agreed to accept a commission in our navy, and then escaped by breaking your parole."

"It is not true, Gen. Bonaparte."

"What? You dare give me the lie?"

"I dare speak the truth; and you know that I did not accept your offer of a commission. Neither did I break my parole. I gave my parole not to escape en route to Boulogne. Ask Lacluse."

"Lacluse is an idiot. If his record had not been good, I would have had him tried by court-martial for letting you escape. Do you know that I propose to treat you as a deserter, M. Roy?"

"From what ship did I desert, general?"

"You went over to the enemy."

"Your enemy, but my friends. You said just now that I broke my parole. In that case I did not desert. I could not be at the same time both prisoner of war and an officer in your navy. And I warn you that if you do treat me as a deserter, you will be reprisals."

"Reprisals! Talk to me of reprisals, when your Turkish allies decapitate my wounded and parade their heads as trophies! It is rather for us to talk of reprisals."

"I am not a Turk, and we do all we can."

"I decline to bandy words with one who has disgraced the noble profession of arms. Take him away, sergeant. Keep him apart from the other prisoners; and be sure you don't let him escape."

On this I was marched off to a tent between two soldiers with fixed bayonets, one of whom was a prisoner in Paris, and the other a corporal, sat with me inside. By way of keeping up my spirits, I was told that if I made any attempt to leave the tent I should be promptly shot or bayoneted at the discretion of my custodians.

At first my inside guardian was by no means amiable. I could not get a word out of him. The air was heavy and the tent very warm, and he evidently did not like the job. But after awhile he unbent, and so far forgot his role as to answer a question, and eventually he became almost confidential. Like every soldier in the army, he was heartily sick of Egypt and the east and weary of getting back to Paris.

Towards evening I had a visit from Lacluse. I was glad to see him, for without help I saw little chance of escaping.

His first proceeding was to order my guardian out of the tent.

"Very good, mon chef," said the man. "You will be answerable."

"I will be answerable. Go and stretch your legs for half an hour, corporal. I will take care of the prisoner."

"It has come sooner than I expected, mon ami," said Lacluse, when the corporal was gone.

"What has come?"

"The chance of reciprocating the service you rendered me the other day. I mean to save your life—if I can."

"Save my life! You surely don't mean that Bonaparte was serious when he threatened to treat me as a deserter?"

"So serious that he has ordered you to be shot to-morrow morning."

"But he dare not. It would be a violation of all the usages of civilized warfare."

"Dare! He will dare anything when his temper is up. What is a single life to a man like him? What are a thousand? How many lives have been sacrificed in this insane expedition? We are beginning to doubt, now, whether Acre will be taken, after all. And if not, what is to become of the army? How are we to get back to France? These are the questions we are continually asking each other. But Bonaparte dominates us all so completely that we keep our doubts to ourselves and go on pouring out our blood for him like water."

"You are bitter, Lacluse."

"I have reason to be. Did he not degrade me from my rank for a trivial fault, a mere error of judgment? My services entitle me to a colonel's rank, at the least, and I am still what I was when we landed in Egypt, a mere chef de bataillon. And now, when I go to him and tell him you saved my life and the lives of several of our soldiers the other day, and that you may be changed as I was, he answers me with gibes and reproaches. Kleber and Murat have already spoken to him in the same sense. They say that your execution will be a disgrace to the army. But it was all to no purpose. They did not shake his resolution in the least. And now, my friend, there is only one thing for it. You must escape."

"That is exactly what I have been thinking. But how is it to be done while two armed men are standing over me, and the only way to Acre is swarming with your troops?"

"I have thought of a plan. It is very risky—"

"Never mind the risk. I would rather be killed while trying to escape than shot by order of Gen. Bonaparte."

"It is risky, but practicable. Your life will be saved by mine."

"By mine! If I were in a galloping consumption or bleeding to death, my life might conceivably be saved by some sound Bordeaux or good old port, but how could I be going to save me from being shot to-morrow morning passes my comprehension."

"All the same it will save you, M. le Capitaine, unless my plan miscarry, which God forbid! It may interest you to know that there is still corn in Egypt, and that a few bottles of it are in my own possession. But it is strictly reserved for special occasions and the sick of my regiment. This is a special occasion, and I place at your disposal two bottles—"

"Don't talk nonsense, Lacluse; there is no—"

"Wait until I have finished, and then give your opinion. I say that I place at your disposal two bottles. When the corporal returns I shall make him a little speech. I shall say that a few days ago you saved my life, and that, as I desire to render the remainder of your stay here as comfortable as possible, I am going to send you a good supper and two bottles of wine. When I speak of wine his eyes will glisten and his mouth will water—for water has been the poor fellow's only drink since many months. And then I will ask him since I cannot myself be having to be on duty to-night, to send you a good supper and two bottles of wine. When I speak of wine his eyes will glisten and his mouth will water—for water has been the poor fellow's only drink since many months. And then I will ask him since I cannot myself be having to be on duty to-night, to send you a good supper and two bottles of wine. 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